

Blind
preliminary molded member, and

said preliminary molded member resultantly obtained is molded at a pressure of 10 to 100 Mpa.

Blind
8. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a separator for a fuel cell configured by molding a complex of graphite powder and thermosetting resin, in which composition the ratios are set to 85 to 97 wt. % of graphite powder, and 3 to 15 wt. % of a thermosetting resin, and an average particle diameter of said graphite powder is set to a range of 15 to 125 μ m, comprising the steps of:

cold-molding said complex into a shape similar to a final molded shape at a pressure of 2 to 10 Mpa forming thereby a preliminary molded member, and

placing said preliminary molded member in a mold to mold it into a final shape by applying a pressure of 10 to 100 Mpa.

REMARKS

A final rejection was issued by the examiner on June 21, 2002 against pending claims 1-5 and 8-15. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in conjunction with an RCE application as a response to the noted Office Action.

In the final rejection, the examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 8-15 as indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. In reply to this rejection, claims 1 and 8 have been amended in this Preliminary Amendment. The noted amendments (Twice Amended) of claims 1 and 8 are believed to overcome the noted indefiniteness rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9 and 11-15 are then rejected as anticipated under 35 USC 102(e) by Braun et al, and claims 1 and 2 are rejected as anticipated under 35 USC 102(e) by